

Remarks

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks. Claims 4, 6-22, 24-31, 34, and 37 remain pending. Claims 4, 6, 8, and 34 are independent. Claims 1-3, 5, 23, 32, 33, 35, and 36 have been cancelled. Claims 4, 6-9, 30, 31, and 34 have been amended. Claim 37 has been added. No new matter has been added. Claims 1-3, 5, 7, 12-21, 24, 30-33, 35, and 36 are rejected. These rejections are respectfully traversed. Claims 4, 6, 8-1122, 25-29, and 34 are objected to.

Claim Objections

The specification is objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. The Office Action directs attention to the terms “first hardware component” and “second hardware component” as recited in claims 1 and 35 and also to the terms “first simulation model” and “second simulation model” as recited in claims 1-3 and 30-36. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-3, 32, 33, 35, and 36 have been cancelled, thereby rendering the objections to such claims moot.

Regarding the terms “first simulation model” and “second simulation model” as recited in claims 30, 31, and 34, Applicants respectfully direct attention to the present application at, for example, page 18, line 22, to page 19, line 2, which states that “[a]ny simulation model with access to the coherent state storage can exchange state information with *any other simulation model* as long as *both models* recognize the same state space and state configuration in the coherent state storage” (emphasis added). Thus, because there is sufficient support for the terms “first simulation model” and “second simulation model,” Applicants respectfully submit that the objections to claims 30, 31, and 34 should be removed.

Regarding the terms “first hardware component” and “second hardware component” as recited in claims 4, 6, and 8, Applicants respectfully direct attention to the present application at, for example, page 19, lines 15-18, which states that “[i]n one embodiment, hardware model 136 models a peripheral device” (e.g., a hardware component), and that “[h]ardware model 135 models a USB bus to connect the peripheral to *another hardware component*, modeled by hardware model 131, that is connected to the system bus 140” (emphasis added). Thus,

Applicants respectfully submit that there is sufficient support for the terms “first hardware component” and “second hardware component” as recited in claims 4, 6, and 8.

Claims 4, 6, 8-11, 22, 25-29, and 34 are each objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claims but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants submit that claims 4, 6, 8, and 34 have each been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 9-11, 22, and 25-29 each depend directly or indirectly from one of the independent claims 4, 6, or 8.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claim 1 has been cancelled thereby rendering the rejection of such claim moot. Claim 9 has been amended to depend from claim 8 so that the limitation “the plurality of simulation domains” as recited in line 1 no longer has insufficient antecedent basis. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claim 9 should be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-3, 5, 7, 12-21, 24, 30-33, 35, and 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,305,006 to Markov. These rejections are respectfully traversed. However, to facilitate prosecution of this application, claims 1-3, 5, 32, 33, 35, and 36 are cancelled without prejudice to filing a continuing application to reassert these claims in whole or in part, with or without modification.

Dependent claims 7, 12-21, 24, 30, and 31 each depend directly or indirectly from independent claim 4, 6, or 8 and are allowable for at least the reasons that the parent claims are allowable. Moreover, claims 7, 12-21, 24, 30, and 31 recite combinations of features that are independently patentable. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) rejections of dependent claims 7, 12-21, 24, 30, and 31 should be withdrawn.

New Claim 37

Dependent claim 37 has been added and depends from independent claim 4. No new matter has been added. New dependent claim 4 is substantially identical to now-cancelled

dependent claim 2.

Request for Interview

If any issues remain, the Examiner is formally requested to contact the undersigned attorney prior to issuance of the next Office action in order to arrange a telephonic interview. It is believed that a brief discussion of the merits of the present application may expedite prosecution. Applicants submit the foregoing formal Amendment so that the Examiner may fully evaluate Applicants' position, thereby enabling the interview to be more focused.

This request is being submitted under MPEP § 713.01, which indicates that an interview may be arranged in advance by a written request.

Conclusion

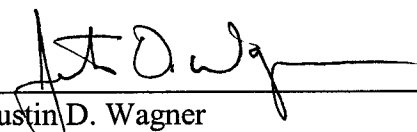
The claims in their present form should now be allowable. Such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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